





# **Africa: DINOSAURS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY?**



## **Mokele M'Bembe and other African lake monsters**

Roy Mackal and Richard Greenwell are two modern day explorers who bear more than a passing resemblance to the intrepid types who forge a path through the jungles of Africa in search of what has often been described as a living sauropod.

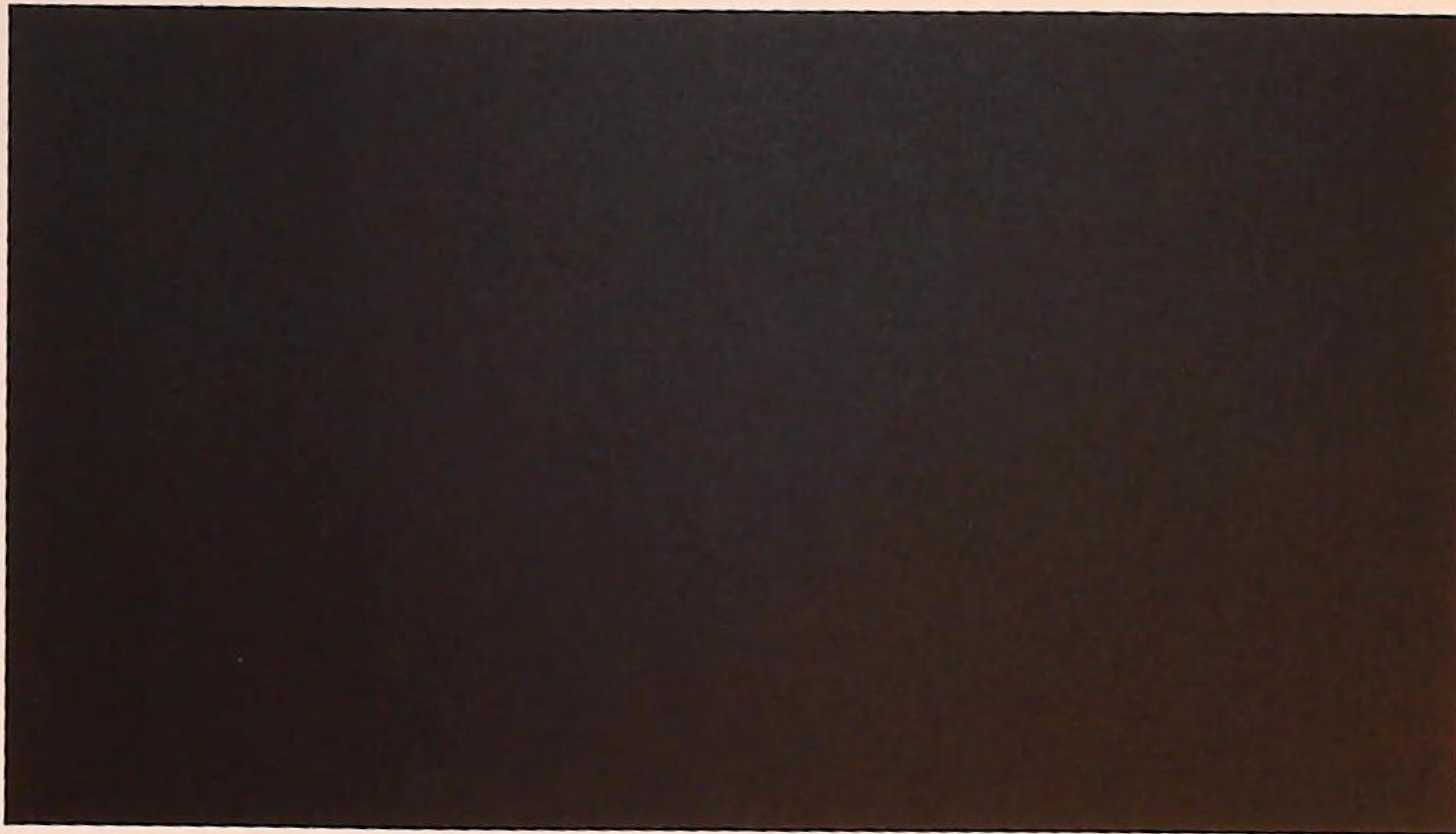
Their adventures in the jungles of the Congo read like a nineteenth century novel, but the difference is that it is purely fact and non-fictional in every sense. Having had to endure swamps, poisonous snakes and a plethora of insect plagues, Mackal and Greenwell reached the Likoula Aux Herbes region and began to search for the beast local had described as being as large as a hippo, but possessed of a long neck and tail.



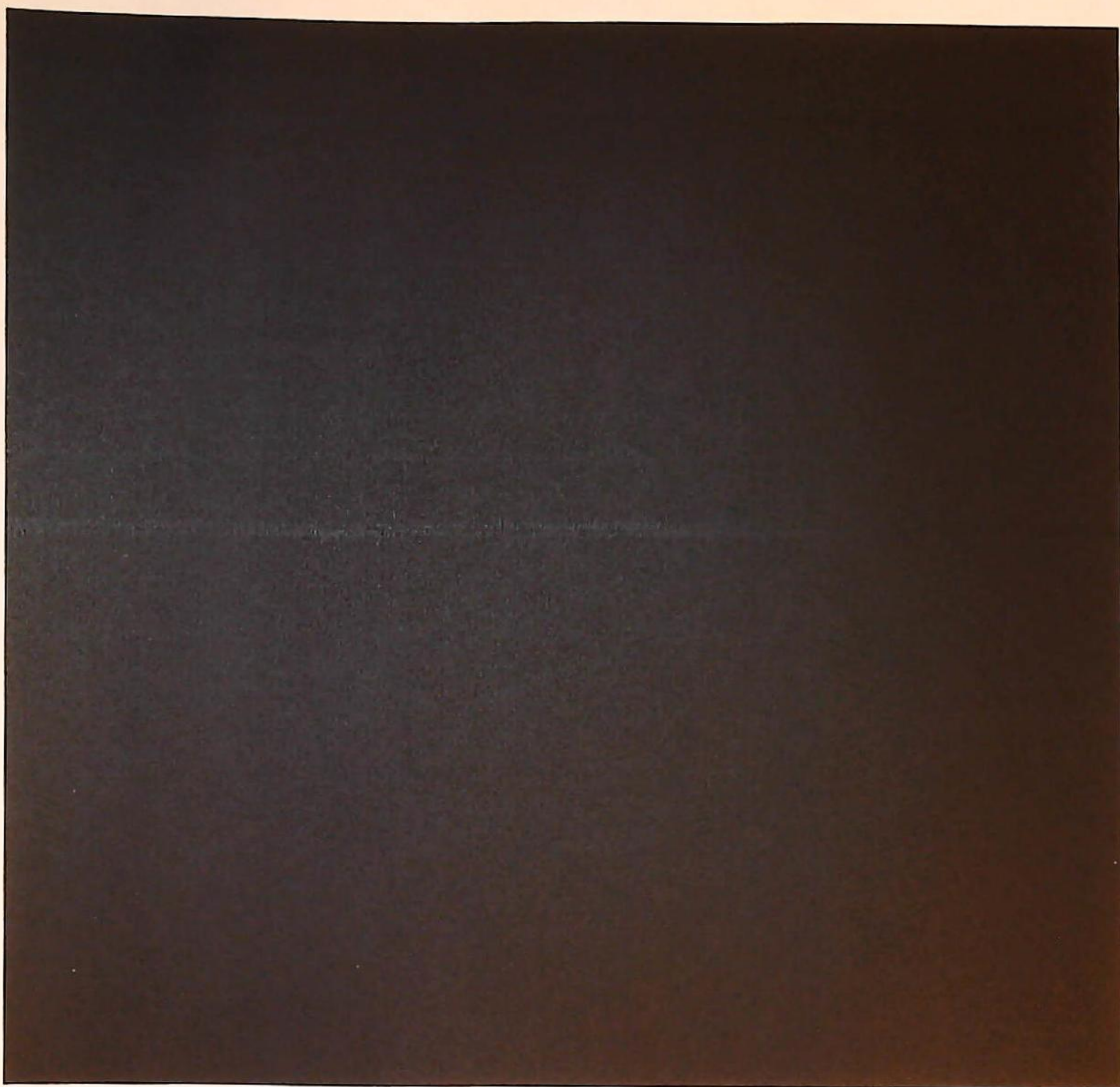
Greenwell did not encounter the animal, however, Mackal was just seconds away from a sighting which was witnessed by his local guide but eluded the American biologist. The locals saw a huge animal in front of their dugout which promptly sank when it noticed the encroachment by the humans.

The American adventurers had followed up reported sightings of large sauropods in both the 19th and 20th centuries and concentrated their efforts in a region where sightings had occurred most frequently.

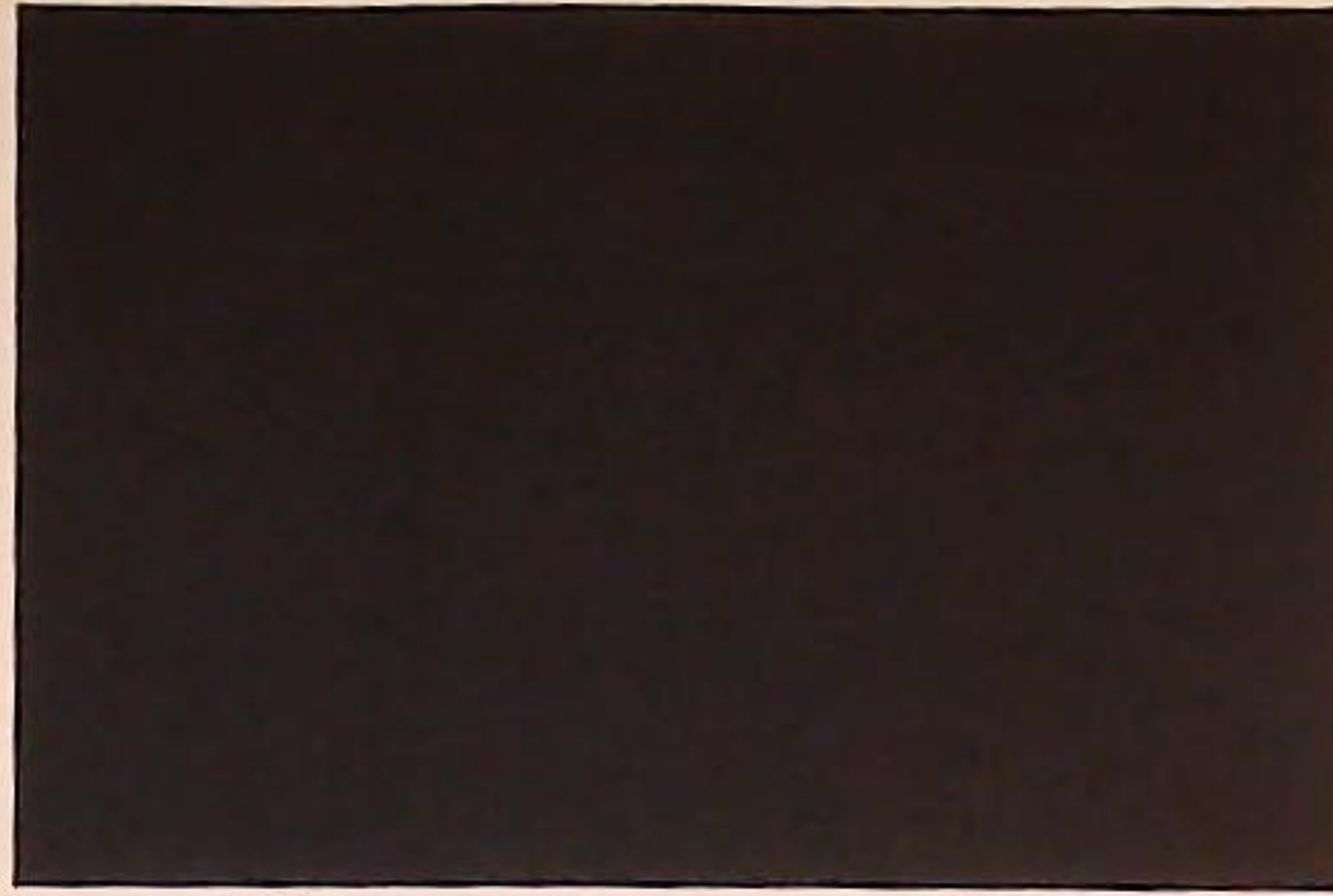
Previously, James Powell, another American explorer, had visited the area and shown pictures of various known animals to the inhabitants which they correctly identified. When shown a picture of a sauropod dinosaur they identified it as Mokele M'Bembe the large animal living in the nearby swamps and river systems.



Other creatures fitting the description of the Mokele M'Bembe type of animal have been found in Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Albert and Lake Telle.



Both the indigenous African population and the foreign settlers have seen what is obviously some sort of relic from the primeval past. The eyewitnesses have carefully described animals that are nothing like known fauna of Africa, but rather throwbacks in time. Whatever is lurking in the jungles is most likely to be shy and wary of humans and is said to shun any contact with our species.



Lake Victoria is large lika a sea and could inhabit many unknown animals.

Although there is a photograph in existence of what is allegedly the animal taken in 1983, the circumstances under which the picture was obtained are most suspicious making it doubtful that it is the genuin article.

A piece of video footage supposedly showing the creature in Lake Tel is also poor evidence of the animal's existence. The video is indistin grainy and could show anything and is more than likely two men in a boat withone of them standing upright in the front of the vessel as is common in Africa. This has been interpreted as a head and neck, but t interpretation of the videotape is purely speculative at best.

However, there are two interesting photographs in existence obtained by British explorer Rory Nugent which deserve further study as they show something most unusual in Lake Tele. One may actually show the head of a Mokele M'Bembe.